

Appln. No. 09/648,132
Amendment dated April 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed January 28, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Previously Presented) A child monitoring system comprising:
2. (Original) The child monitoring system of claim 1, further comprising:
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A child monitoring system ~~of claim 2,~~ further comprising:
 - a vehicle having an interior compartment, said interior compartment having a front portion and a rear portion;
 - a housing coupled to an interior surface of said front portion of said vehicle, said housing having a reflective surface; and
 - a monitoring device coupled to an interior surface of said rear portion of said vehicle, said monitoring device directing information to said reflective surface;
 - said reflective surface being a rear-view mirror, said rear-view mirror being positioned such that a driver of said vehicle being able to view an area relatively behind the driver of said vehicle by looking at said reflective surface;
 - said monitoring device being a monitoring mirror, said monitoring mirror being couplable to an interior surface of the rear portion of the vehicle, said monitoring mirror being positionable such that a front surface of said mirror being able to reflect an image of selectable areas of the rear portion of said vehicle for viewing by the driver when the driver observes ~~said rear-view mirror.~~

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4. (Original) The child monitoring system of claim 3, further comprising:

said monitoring mirror being elongate, said mirror having a medial portion and two end portions, said end portions being positioned relative to said medial portion such that a plane formed by a front surface of said end portion forms an oblique angle with a plane formed by a front surface of said medial portion, such that a broad field of view being reflected from said monitoring mirror to said rear-view mirror.

5. (Original) The child monitoring system of claim 3, further comprising:

said monitoring mirror being elongate for providing a reflection on a wide field of view of a selectable area of the rear portion of the vehicle.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The child monitoring system of claim 2,~~
~~further comprising:~~

a vehicle having an interior compartment, said interior compartment having a front portion and a rear portion;

a housing coupled to an interior surface of said front portion of said vehicle, said housing having a reflective surface; and

a monitoring device coupled to an interior surface of said rear portion of said vehicle, said monitoring device directing information to said reflective surface;

said reflective surface being a rear-view mirror, said rear-view mirror being positioned such that a driver of said vehicle being able to view an area relatively behind the driver of said vehicle by looking at said reflective surface;

said monitoring device being a monitoring mirror, said monitoring mirror being coupled to a front surface of a headrest pivotally coupled to a rear seat in said vehicle, said headrest being pivotable such that said mirror

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being able to capture a reflection of a selectable area of said rear portion of said vehicle.

7. (Previously Presented) The child monitoring system of claim 6, further comprising:

said headrest of said vehicle having a front surface and a rear surface, said headrest being rotatable with respect to said rear seat such that said front surface and said rear surface of said headrest being selectably positioned to face a front of said vehicle;

said mirror being coupled to said rear surface of said headrest such that said headrest having a monitoring position and a normal position, said monitoring position being defined as said rear surface of said headrest facing said front of said vehicle such that an image reflected by said monitoring mirror being transferable to said rear-view mirror for observation by the driver, said normal position being defined as said front surface of said headrest facing said front of said vehicle.

8. (Original) The child monitoring system of claim 6, further comprising:

said monitoring mirror having a cover member, said cover member being having a normal position and a monitoring position, said normal position being defined as said cover member obscuring said surface of said mirror, said monitoring position being defined such that said cover member does not obscure said surface of said mirror such that an image of a selectable area of said rear portion reflected by said monitoring mirror being transferable to said rear-view mirror.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A child monitoring system comprising:
a vehicle having an interior compartment, said interior compartment having a front portion and a rear portion;

a housing coupled to an interior surface of said front portion of said vehicle, said housing having a viewing device;

a monitoring device coupled to an interior surface of said rear portion of said vehicle;

said viewing device being a rear-view mirror, said rear-view mirror being positioned such that a driver of said vehicle being able to view an area relatively behind the driver of said vehicle by looking at said reflective surface;

said monitoring device being a monitoring mirror, said monitoring mirror being couplable to an interior surface of the rear portion of the vehicle, said monitoring mirror being positionable such that a front surface of said mirror being able to reflect an image of selectable areas of the rear portion of said vehicle for viewing by the driver when the driver observes said rear-view mirror;

wherein said monitoring mirror being elongate, said mirror having a medial portion and two end portions, said end portions being positioned relative to said medial portion such that a plane formed by a front surface of said end portion forms an oblique angle with a plane formed by a front surface of said medial portion, such that a broad field of view being reflected from said monitoring mirror to said rear-view mirror;

wherein said monitoring device being a monitoring mirror, said monitoring mirror being coupled to a front surface of a headrest pivotally

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coupled to a rear seat in said vehicle, said headrest being pivotable such that said mirror being able to capture a reflection of a selectable area of said rear portion of said vehicle;

wherein said headrest of said vehicle having a front surface and a rear surface, said headrest being rotatable with respect to said rear seat such that said front surface and said rear surface of said headrest being selectably positioned to face a front of said vehicle, said mirror being coupled to said rear surface of said headrest such that said headrest having a monitoring position and a normal position, said monitoring position being defined as said rear surface of said headrest facing said front of said vehicle such that an image reflected by said monitoring mirror being transferable to said rear-view mirror for observation by the driver, said normal position being defined as said front surface of said headrest facing said front of said vehicle;

wherein said monitoring mirror having a cover member, said cover member being having a normal position and a monitoring position, said normal position being defined as said cover member obscuring said surface of said mirror, said monitoring position being defined such that said cover member does not obscure said surface of said mirror such that an image of a selectable area of said rear portion reflected by said monitoring mirror being transferable to said rear-view mirror;

wherein said monitoring device being a monitoring mirror, said monitoring mirror being coupled to a headrest member, said headrest member being couplable to a rear seat of said vehicle, said headrest being pivotable such that said monitoring mirror being able to reflect an image of a selectable area of the rear portion of the vehicle;

wherein said monitoring device being a monitoring mirror, said monitoring mirror being coupled to a cover member, said cover member conforming to an outer surface of a headrest coupled to a rear seat of said vehicle, said headrest being pivotally adjustable such that said mirror being

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able to reflect an image of a selectable area of said rear portion of said vehicle;

wherein said monitoring device being a plurality of monitoring mirrors, each one of said plurality being positionable such that an image reflected by each one of said plurality being transferable to said rear-view mirror such that multiple selectable areas of the rear portion of the vehicle are observable;

wherein said viewing device is a video monitor, said video monitor being coupled to a dash of said vehicle, said monitoring device being a video camera, said video camera being operationally coupled to said video monitor such that an image captured by said video camera being displayed on said video monitor, said video camera being positionable such that an image of a selectable area of said rear portion is capturable by said video camera, wherein said monitoring device being a plurality of video cameras, said plurality of video cameras being operationally coupled to said video monitor such that a captured image from each one of said plurality being displayable on said video monitor such that multiple selectable areas of the rear portion of the vehicle are observable.